

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00298 101829Z

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2190

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0298

FROM MBFR REP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: OTHER ASPECTS OF FRG DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL

REF: NATO 5013 DTG 091843Z JUN 77

1. REGARDING FRG PROPOSAL TO EXCHANGE DATA ON ALL DIVISIONS
AS WELL AS CORPS AND ARMIES: MOVING TO AN ENUMERATION OF
INDIVIDUAL GROUND FORCE DIVISIONS ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL BE
BOTH DESIRABLE AND NECESSARY AT SOME POINT IN THE DATA
DISCUSSION. BUT TO PROPOSE IT AT THIS STAGE WOULD BE COUNTER
PRODUCTIVE. TO LIST EACH WARSAW PACT DIVISION, TOGETHER WITH
ALL THE ARMIES IN THE NGA WOULD ADD UP TO SOME 75 SEPARATE
DATA ITEMS, ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE NEGOTIABILITY OF THE
PROPOSAL. FRG REP (BEHREND)S EXPLANATION TO THE AHG OF THIS ASPECT
OF THE FRG APPROACH INDICATED THAT BONN DID NOT NECESSARILY

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SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00298 101829Z

ENVISAGE INCLUDING A REQUIREMENT TO EXCHANGE DATA ON DIVISIONS
AS WELL AS CORPS/ARMIES IN THE INITIAL WESTERN PROPOSAL TO THE
EAST. AMENDING THIS ASPECT OF THE PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE THE AHG
DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY TO PROPOSE TABLING DIVISIONAL DATA AT
A LATER STAGE MAY THEREFORE BE ACCEPTABLE TO FRG. IT MAY BE
NECESSARY FOR AHG TO DISCUSS SUCH FIGURES WITH THE EAST AT A
LATER STAGE IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF DISCREPANCY.

2. THERE IS A FURTHER SPECIFIC PROBLEM WITH THE FRG PROPOSAL. AS PRESENTED BY FRG REP IN JUNE 9 SPC MEETING (REF, PARA 6), FRG PROPOSAL WOULD APPARENTLY REQUIRE COMPLETION OF DISCUSSION OF DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FIGURES ON PACT GROUND FORCE MANPOWER INCLUDING EXCHANGE OF DIVISIONAL DATA AS WELL AS OF ARMY/CORPS DATA, BEFORE ANY FIGURES ON AIR MANPOWER COULD BE PUT FORWARD.

3. IN OUR VIEW, TO PROPOSE SUCH A PROCEDURE TO THE EAST WOULD SEVERELY REDUCE THE CHANCES OF EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF ANY UNIT DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL AS A WHOLE. SUCH AN APPROACH CARRIES THE ALLIED FOCUS ON GROUND FORCES TO EXCESS. IT WOULD MERELY INCREASE THE EAST'S SUSPICIONS THAT THE WEST IS USING THE DATA DISCUSSION TO PROMOTE ITS OVERALL POSITION AND THEREBY CREATE A FURTHER UNDESIRABLE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE DATA DISCUSSION AND THE GENERAL NEGOTIATING POSITION OF EACH SIDE.

4. AS REGARDS THE QUESTION RAISED BY IS DISARMAMENT CHIEF (PARA 11 OF REF), WE CONCUR WITH MC REP THAT DIVIDING THE RESIDUAL PERSONNEL OUTSIDE MAJOR UNITS ALONG US/NON-US AND SOVIET/NON-SOVIET LINES WOULD BE OF LIMITED UTILITY IN LOCATING THE DISCREPANCY. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE EAST GIVE US COMPLETE NATIONAL FIGURES FOR EAST EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS SINCE A MAJORITY OF THE DISCREPANCY IS PROBABLY IN THAT AREA.

5. IN ADDITION, SUCH A FEATURE WOULD REDUCE THE NEGOTIABILITY OF THE FRG PROPOSAL. THE EAST HAS ALREADY FLATLY REJECTED AN
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PAGE 03 MBFR V 00298 101829Z

APPROACH TO DATA DISAGGREGATION BASED ON PROVIDING NATIONAL TOTALS FOR THE US AND SOVIETS ONLY. PUTTING THIS CONCEPT FORWARD IN THE CONTEXT OF DISAGGREGATING RESIDUAL PERSONNEL WOULD IN PRACTICE MEAN THE WEST WAS AGAIN DEMANDING SOVIET NATIONAL TOTALS WHILE REFUSING TO PROVIDE WESTERN EUROPEAN TOTALS. THIS ACTION WOULD BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE AND WOULD ONCE AGAIN INJECT A BASIC ALLIED NEGOTIATING POSITION INTO THE DATA DISCUSSION. RESOR

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